

**Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration**

***disABILITY EMPLOYMENT GRANTS*
Program Year 1998**

The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) administers a *disAbility* Employment Grant program designed to support the objectives of Executive Order 13078, "***Improving Employment of Adults with Disabilities***" and to address the 73% unemployment rate of those with severe disabilities. The grants are competitively awarded under JTPA Titles III & IV and eighteen grantees are currently funded for a total of \$8 million. The grant projects are focused on the following DOL/ETA objectives to expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities:

Coordination - To address the multiple barriers to employment, many of the grants include interagency collaboration and coordination of diverse service agencies at the local level, in addition to client assistance in navigating the Nations' complex program delivery system for people with disabilities. The grants demonstrate linkages with One-Stop Career Center and School-to-Work systems, SSI/SSDI Return to Work programs, Vocational Rehabilitation services, and other agencies addressing transportation, housing, health care, job coaching or natural support issues.

Innovation and Quality Outcomes - The grants represent innovative service approaches including person centered planning; work-first, rapid job entry strategies; wrap around services; natural and paid post-placement supports; long-term career planning; and training to fill skill shortages in technology. Career path objectives and advancement, training in high demand, high wage Information Technology industries, and intensive post-employment job retention services are some of the approaches utilized to achieve employment that allows for independence in the community and workplace.

Community Options, Inc. - Their innovative project, PASS*IT*ON (Plan for Achieving Self-Support with Information Technologies Nationwide), will work in collaboration with the Information Technology Association of America, to replicate and expand upon their highly successful Denver, CO, program in other sites. PASS*IT*ON includes training delivery through post-secondary institutions, intensive work ethic training model and required internship, and utilization of Business Advisory Councils from the IT corporate community to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities through IT applications such as voice activated computers, laser technologies, speech synthesizers, screen readers, etc. Community Options, Inc. is located in the following hi-tech sites:

Central New Jersey
Northern Virginia

Austin, TX
Denver, CO.

Contact: Michael Morris, (202) 721-0120

Employment Resources, Inc. - Their program will serve youth aged 16 to 21 with severe physical disabilities and focuses on career planning through reality-based vocational goal testing, job readiness skills training, and business planning for entrepreneurship. Assistance will also be provided to access and utilize local career centers and services within the community. They plan to serve and place 35 youth in the following locations:

Dane County, WI

State of Illinois.

Contact: Jill Wheeler, (608) 246-3449

Goodwill Industries International, Inc. - Project design emphasizes career development, job retention and post-placement follow-up with strong linkages forged alternatively with School-to-Work, One-Stop Career Centers, and Welfare-to-Work systems. Goodwill Industry locations providing employment and training services include:

Washington, DC

Winston-Salem, NC

Macon, Georgia

Orlando and St. Petersburg, FL

Indianapolis, IN

Grand Rapids, MI

Denver, CO

Tacoma, WA.

Contact: Jeff Foley, (301) 530-6500

IAM Cares - Project design includes collocation in One-Stop Career Centers and implementation of their CARENET approach involving a client management system, comprehensive worker trait analysis and transferrable skills assessment, career exploration, job matching, and a service provider data base on support services. CARENET's personalized services, integrated with technology, design will also include partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation and SSA. Program sites include:

Washington, DC

St. Louis, MI

Portland, OR

Seattle, WA

Contact: Angela Traiforos, (301) 967-4717

Institute for Community Inclusion at Children's Hospital - Represents multi-dimensional strategy involving linkages with One-Stop Career Centers, school-to-work and community rehabilitation systems in several multi-linguistic, multi-cultural, and/or enterprise communities. ICI's approach includes a focus on work-first, rapid job entry approaches, person centered planning, wrap-around supports, network development, peer and mentor supports, and natural or paid work-site supports. Information Technology training and career paths will be pursued when applicable. Services will be provided in the following sites:

Lawrence, MA

Brockton, MA

Boston, MA

Rural Maine

Contact: Liam O'Connor, (617) 355-6506

International Association of Jewish Vocational Services - The IAJVS program is directed primarily to individuals with HIV/AIDS and psychiatric disabilities to assist their return (or entry) into the labor market through 1) computer training and placement in high growth industries; 2) integrating work readiness, job search and customer service; and 3) incorporating intensive retention and career advancement services. They plan to serve 81 participants, with a placement rate of 60%, in five sites:

Boston, MA
Tampa Bay, FL
San Francisco, CA.

Philadelphia, PA
Chicago, IL

Contact: Genie-Davis-Cohen, (215) 854-0235

International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services: Utilizes best practice approaches with individuals with severe mental illness including: 1) work first rapid placement with focus on post-placement training and job stabilization; 2) on-going support at work including assistance with SSI/DI requirements and negotiating “reasonable accommodations” as needed; 3) career development following normative processes of personal and vocational interest over extended periods of time and employment. Client services will be directed to individuals with schizophrenia, affective mood disorders, and dual-diagnosed with substance abuse and serious mental illness, aged 17 to 35 in the following sites:

Philadelphia, PA
St. Petersburg, FL

St. Louis, MI

Contact: Ruth Hughes, (410) 730-7190

Joseph P. Kennedy Institute: Person centered, intensive rehabilitative service approach, including relapse prevention/life skills and adult continuing education, will be used in serving primarily minority and ethnic youth with developmental disabilities and recovering from substance abuse. The majority of clients will be SSI/SSDI recipients whose employability needs are generally not addressed through traditional JTPA and VR services. Linkages with various state and non-profit programs will be utilized in program design incorporating data analysis, consumer satisfaction and program evaluations for replication and policy consideration. The Institute’s program builds upon prior DOEd/RSA grant by replication of model program that will serve 90 individuals in the following locations:

Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, MD
Washington, DC

Contact: Ravita Maharaj, (202) 529-0500

Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities - Their Bridges Plus program will build upon their school-to-work Bridges program with a greater emphasis on career path of youth and an 18 month period of involvement and follow-up to foster personal growth through job advancement. Bridges Plus will link with formal School-to-Work system and serve up to 200 youth, 85% of whom will be ethnic minorities, and place 120 in the following sites:

Washington, DC
San Francisco, CA

Chicago, IL

Contact: Mark Donovan, (301) 380-8402

Montana Job Training Partnership, Inc. - This project will focus on direct services through partnership and capacity building of workforce development system (e.g., JTPA, Welfare-to-Work, One-Stop, etc) to serve individuals with severe disabilities and leverage needed resources. MJTP seeks to address problems of service provision and employment in diverse rural States where small business are the main source of employment. Their program utilizes partnering and work-first approaches to serve 75 participants, 90% of whom will be SSI/SSDI recipients, and place 60 in the following locations:

State of Montana

State of Wyoming

Contact: Tom Hayes, (406) 444-1330

National Center for Disability Services - NCDS will focus on SSI and SSDI recipients, dislocated workers with disabilities and employment barriers related to transportation. Their person centered approach will be implemented through local service or consumer organizations at each project site in collaboration with One-Stop Career Center and Vocational Rehabilitation systems. Computer literacy training and telecommuting employment alternatives will be included in service delivery to 120 individuals, with the anticipation of 60 placements in unsubsidized employment, in the following sites:

Albertson, NY
St. Louis, MI

Louisville, KY
Phoenix, AR

Contact: Judy Young, (516) 747-5400

National Federation of the Blind - This project represents a collaborative approach with corporate entities, such as UPS, to identify applicable jobs/positions conducive for performance without sight and facilitating needed accommodations. NFB will provide Intensive training to participants in advanced technologies available to enhance job skills and expand options for the

legally blind in the world of work and in day-to-day living. This consumer driven approach will demonstrate effectiveness of focused linkages with business and expand upon existing Vocational Rehabilitation services. NFB plans to serve 150 participants and place 80 in several sites:

Baltimore, MD
Minneapolis, MN

Ruston, LA

Contact: Anthony Cobb, (410) 659-9314

The Arc of the United States - The Arc plans to establish partnerships with, and provide capacity building assistance, to One-Stop Career Centers related to training and services for clients with mental retardation. They also plan to implement a strong collaboration with several national corporations to enhance placement opportunities to include on-the-job training for clients who are generally under-served (e.g., women, African Americans, ethnic minorities, etc.). They plan to serve 300 individuals with mental retardation and place 141 in the following locations:

Baltimore, MD
Arlington, TX

Washington, DC
Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Ron Harvey, (817) 261-6003

United Cerebral Palsy - Their One-Stop to Success program will focus on the employment barriers of individuals with severe physical and communication disabilities through a collaborative approach with One-Stop Career Center system, Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, and State Developmental Disabilities Councils, among others. UCP will use job restructuring, job coaching, counseling on life skills and SSA work incentives, training and work first approaches to serve 60 individuals with severe disabilities in the following sites:

State of Michigan

State of Colorado

Contact: Norciva Schumpert, (228) 497-6999

For More Information Contact: Sandra Y. Johnson

U. S. Department of Labor
Employment & Training Administration
Disability Employment & Initiatives Unit
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Information on other programs related to people with disabilities can be accessed on our Disability Homepage at: <http://www.wdsc.org/disability>.